Colonial Invasions, Colonial Lives
History 302

Consider Resources

Primary Resources: diaries, letters, speeches, paintings, government documents …
Secondary Resources: books, journal articles (scholarly vs popular), theses, the Web…

Check subject guide under: Research by Subject → History
→ Introduction to Research
→ Latin American Studies

Find Background Information

You may need to look up background information, definitions of terms to help you understand your topic better, and to give you ideas on how to research more deeply for information on your topic. The following titles are shelved in the Stauffer Library Reference collection unless otherwise indicated.

Encyclopedia of Latin American History and Culture  REF F1406 .E53 1996
Cambridge History of Latin America  (Online)
Cambridge Encyclopedia of Latin America and the Caribbean  F1406 .C36 (Stauffer Books)
Oxford History of Mexico  F1226 .O94 2000 (Stauffer Books)
Oxford Encyclopedia of the Modern World  (Online)
Oxford Companion to World Exploration  (Online)
Oxford Reference Online
   A selection of dictionaries and other subject specific reference works.

Latin American Historical Dictionaries
   A series of dictionaries that can be found in the reference collection.

Find Primary Sources

For information about primary sources, go to:

Research by Subject → Primary Sources

The primary source material which you can find in Stauffer Library will vary from topic to topic. It may be a diary, correspondence, newspaper accounts, a piece of legislation, a painting, etc. from the period of study, as well as electronic, microfilm, and printed collections of these documents published at a later date.
1. **Use QCAT**

**A. Search by Subject or Keyword**

You can locate items in the library by searching QCAT by doing a keyword search and then adding one of the special subject terms to your search:

- correspondence
- diaries
- early works to 1800
- interviews
- pamphlets
- personal narratives
- sources
- speeches

peru and history and **sources**

Also browse subject headings and look for these special subject terms:

Explorers--Spain--**Correspondence**
Latin America--History--To 1830--**Sources**
Mexican War, 1846-1848--**Personal Narratives**
Spain--Colonies--America--History--**Sources**

Collections of primary sources often have the word **documents** in the title:

**documents** and spain and (colonies or colonization)

**B. Look up Historical Figures, Organizations, and Agencies...**

If you know of a person involved in the event or from the time period, look under that person's name as an author (or subject) for memoirs, diaries, and correspondence. For example:

**Columbus Christopher**
**Ferdinand V, King of Spain**
**Pizarro**

2. **Use Government Documents**

Publications generated by a government body, public records, reports and statistics are excellent sources of primary materials. Although we do not have government documents from Latin America for this time period, you can find documents on the Web or in the Library, published in book format.
Examples of print primary source collections:

The Broken Spears: the Aztec Account of the Conquest of Mexico
Colonial Spanish America: a Documentary History
Colonial Lives: Documents on Latin American History, 1550-1850
Letters and People of the Spanish Indies, the Sixteenth Century
Iberian New World: a Documentary History of the Discovery and Settlement of Latin America to the Early 17th Century

3. Search the Web

Search the web for primary source collections:

"primary sources" "christopher columbus" site:edu [advanced search in Google]

Primary source materials and related websites can be freely reached on the web as well as the links below that lead you to websites for which the library pays.

Access the following via Databases:

Early English Books Online (EBBO)
This database contains full text page images of works printed in the UK or works in English printed elsewhere from 1475 to 1700. Examples include prayer books, pamphlets, proclamations, almanacs, calendars, and many other primary resources.

Empire Online
Contains several thousand searchable scanned images of original documents relating to Empire Studies.

Slavery, Abolition and Social Justice
A collection of materials from libraries and archives on slavery and abolition studies.

Some websites provide access to online versions of primary sources. These may be digitized images, facsimiles, or full text.

A selection of freely available websites:

Latin American Pamphlet Digital Collection
http://hcl.harvard.edu/collections/digital_collections/latin_american_pamphlets.cfm

Latin American Travelogues (from the 16th to the 19th centuries)
http://dl.lib.brown.edu/travelogues/

Avalon Project: Documents in Law, History and Diplomacy
http://avalon.law.yale.edu
Internet History Sourcebooks Project
http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/

A collection of primary source documents from ancient to modern times, such as:

- Internet Modern History Sourcebook http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/modsbook.html
- Colonial Latin America http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/modsbook08.html
- 19th Century Latin America http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/modsbook32.html

Latin American Network Information Center – LANIC
http://lanic.utexas.edu

History http://lanic.utexas.edu/la/region/history/

History: Latin America – Primary Sources
http://guides.lib.washington.edu/content.php?pid=61680&sid=454811

Vistas: Visual Culture in Spanish America 1520–1820
http://www.smith.edu/vistas/

An art gallery of images which includes various items created in the wake of the New World conquests.

World Digital Library: Latin America and the Caribbean Collections
http://www.wdl.org/en/ and then click on Latin America and the Caribbean

Find Secondary Sources

1. Books

To find books on your topic in QCAT, use either a keyword or subject search. If you know the correct subject heading, you can do a subject search. Sometimes you can guess the correct subject heading but in other cases, you will have to do a keyword search. Think of the words that best describe your topic and then connect them with Boolean operators: AND, OR, NOT.

My topic: Spanish colonialism in Latin America
My search: “latin america” and colonialism and Spain Search by: Keyword Boolean

Select useful titles from your hits and then look at the subject headings. Use them to provide more keyword ideas or as individual searches themselves. This will lead you to similar books.

(“latin america” or peru or mexico) and (colonies or colonization) and Spain

Search by Subject

America--Discovery and exploration--Spanish Spain--Colonies--America--History
Indians--Treatment of--Latin America Spain--Civilization--711-1516
Latin America--Colonization Spain--Civilization--1516-1700
Other useful subject headings for an overview of the historical period include:

Aztecs  
Latin America--History--To 1830  
Latin America--Civilization  
Latin America--Intellectual life--16th century  
Latin America--Social conditions  
Portugal--Colonies--America--History  
Mexico--Economic conditions--1540-1810  
Peru--Politics and government--1548-1820  
Mexico--Religion  
Brazil--Social life and customs--19th century  
Women--Latin America--History  

2. E-Books  

The library subscribes to a number of e-book packages. Packages that are of interest to history students are: ACLS Humanities E-Book, Canadian Electronic Library, Cambridge Histories Online, MyiLibrary, and e-Duke Books Scholarly Collection (via ebrary).

Records for some of these e-books are in QCAT but one can directly go to these e-books packages and search them. Access is via Databases.

3. Articles  

Use the following databases to find scholarly articles:

→ Historical Abstracts: 1954 - present  
→ PRISMA: 1991 - present (includes Hispanic American Periodicals Index)  
→ HLAS Online (Handbook of Latin American Studies): 1936 - present

Consider these other indexes:

→ Humanities & Social Sciences Retrospective Index: 1907 - 1984  
→ America: History and Life: 1954 -  
→ Academic Search Complete: coverage varies  
→ Latin American Periodicals Tables of Contents: 1990 -  
  http://www1.lanic.utexas.edu/project/arl/laptoc.html  
→ Religion Database: 1949 -

For retrospective coverage, check the following bibliography:

Latin America: a Guide to the Historical Literature (Online)  
In print at REF Z1601 .G75
To search indexes, click the tab **Databases** and enter title of the database/index:

**Search Historical Abstracts**

*Historical Abstracts* covers the history of the world from 1450 to the present. It indexes articles from approximately 2000 journals, selected books and dissertations.

**My topic: the role of women in Latin American colonial society**

Search: women and role and latin america

Modify search: (women or sex role or gender) and latin america (limit to subject terms)

Limit by historical period: 1500 to 1800

Limit by language: English

To find out if Queen's subscribes to the journal, click on **Get It! @ Queen's** if the full text is not readily available.

Queen's Library subscribes to about 90,000 full text e-journals via various publishers' packages. Search QCAT or Journals A to Z to find specific titles.

One collection that is of particular interest to history students is JSTOR, a digitized collection of articles from key periodicals (about 240 history titles are indexed), excluding the most current 2 to 5 years of a title. Access JSTOR via the link, Databases.

**4. Summon**

Summon is the new Library search engine that helps you discover information on any topic from the Queen's Library collections. It searches books, journals, newspapers and provides you with several ways to narrow your search results.

Summon is good for broad, initial searches but it is not totally comprehensive. If you are doing higher level research, you will want to search relevant subject specific databases.

**5. Book Reviews**

In order to locate a book review, you need to have the following information:

- Author
- Full title of the book
- Year in which the book was first published

For reviews of history books, check the following sources:

- *Book Review Index Plus*
- *Humanities Abstracts*
- *Social Sciences Abstracts*
Also consider searching for book reviews in Summon.

Also check out the Research Subject Guide, Book Reviews, for additional resources.

**Search Other Library Catalogues**

If you don’t find what you need in QCAT, try searching other library catalogues, using WorldCat. WorldCat is a database of library catalogues around the world. It can help you identify materials in other libraries, which you may then request through Interlibrary Loan. To access, click on Find Information and then on Other Library Catalogues.

**Request an Interlibrary Loan**

Use interlibrary loan (ILL) to obtain loans or copies of items that Queen’s libraries do not own. Click RACER on the library home page.

For more information, consult the brochure: *RACER, Our Interlibrary Loan System*.

**Search the Web**

Check our Search the Web guide at: [http://library.queensu.ca/research/guide/search-web](http://library.queensu.ca/research/guide/search-web)

- [http://www.google.ca/advanced_search?hl=en](http://www.google.ca/advanced_search?hl=en)
  
  ...offers a variety of ways to structure a more precise search and improve the efficiency of your search results.

- [http://books.google.ca/](http://books.google.ca/)
  
  ...searches for books on your topic. In many cases, a limited preview of the book is available - you can then search QCAT, the library catalogue to see if Queen's owns a copy. In other instances, the complete book is available in digital form from Google Books.

- [http://scholar.google.ca/](http://scholar.google.ca/)
  
  ...searches for scholarly materials including journal articles, theses, books, preprints, abstracts and technical reports from broad areas of research.

  ...searches a variety of academic publishers, professional societies, preprint repositories and universities, as well as scholarly articles available across the web.
TIP: By searching Google Scholar through the Queen’s Library website the "Get It! @ Queen’s" citation linker is activated (which allows you to click through to the Library’s subscriptions). To import citations into RefWorks choose Scholar Preferences, then Bibliography Manager. Select RefWorks. Save Preferences.

Evaluate Websites

Anyone can create a webpage so it is particularly important to analyze and assess information that you find on the Web before using it in a research paper. Go to our Evaluating Web Sources page for a checklist of points to consider when analyzing a web page:

How-to & Help → How-To Guides → Finding Web → Web: Evaluate

Cite Sources

Check our Citation and Style Guides page at: How-to & Help → How to Cite Sources

Chicago is the preferred style of documentation in history. Check QCAT for print copies in the library system.

Since there are many different citation styles, always check with your instructors to determine which style is expected for your courses.

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